

the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam war.

After leaving Active-Duty service, Tony moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he lives today and serves as the president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Local Chapter 1046. Through this leadership role, Tony has remained active in advocating for his fellow veterans suffering from service-related illnesses. His continued commitment to the veterans of Northeast Florida and dedication to the Nation are unmatched.

I take this opportunity to thank Tony for his continued efforts to support those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and salute his service to this Nation. We owe Tony and veterans like him a debt of gratitude that we could never repay.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN LESLIE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate retired Navy Commander John Leslie for his induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

John spent a total of 39 years in active service and civilian service to the U.S. Navy, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Meritorious Service Medals, seven Strike/Flight Air Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, and numerous other service and unit decorations.

He is known by his friends and neighbors as an honorable officer, a devoted friend, a true patriot, and a loving husband to his wife, Patricia, who you see pictured here.

John's commitment to supporting those around him has continued into retirement through his service to his fellow veterans across Northeast Florida. He now devotes his time to leadership and volunteer roles at the Mayo Clinic, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, and Veterans Treatment Court in St. Johns County. John's legacy of dedication rightfully earned him a spot in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I thank Commander Leslie for his devotion to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAUL WALDRON

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember St. Johns County Commissioner Paul Waldron.

Paul was a lifelong resident of St. Johns County and a vibrant member of the community. Throughout his young life, Paul worked and operated his family's small business, Harry's Curb Market, before becoming a respected real estate professional.

Paul applied his experience running a small business to his role as St. Johns County commissioner through his efforts to support and expand recreation and tourism development and strengthen our economy.

Throughout his 6 years as commissioner, Paul also became a powerful advocate for residents in St. Johns County and continued to volunteer in a variety of capacities throughout the community.

His recent loss is a devastating blow to our community. He will be remembered as a strong leader, faithful husband, loving father, and beloved neighbor and friend. I was proud to call him my friend.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I extend sincere condolences to Paul's wife, Stephanie, and their two daughters, Ashley and Kati.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TYRONE WINFREY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyrone Winfrey, a beloved resident of Michigan's 13th Congressional District. He was a tireless advocate for our students, a fighter for higher education opportunities, and so much more.

Tyrone Winfrey served as the Executive Director of Community Affairs for Detroit Public Schools Community District and was the former school board president. He worked tirelessly to advocate for our youth, and to ensure that every single student had access and an opportunity to quality education and a pathway for college and higher education opportunities.

Tyrone served our communities at Detroit public schools for almost 35 years, and during his time, he inspired, supported, and uplifted so many of our students and families.

He lost his 5-year battle with cancer, and I am proud to stand here in honor of his life and his love for our community and our youth. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, the Detroit Public Schools Community District, and all who were impacted by Tyrone Winfrey.

RECOGNIZING THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Islamic Center of America for their outstanding service on behalf of our communities of Wayne County and Southeastern Michigan as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

They were founded in 1962, and there, the Islamic Center of America's roots can be traced back to 1949 when our religious leader, scholar, Imam Chirri, who could not speak or understand English, came to America at the request of a small group of residents.

A committed group of community members came together and worked to establish the Islamic Center as Michigan's first mosque and invited Imam Chirri to lead this family in faith.

Since its humbling beginnings, the Islamic Center of America has grown to accommodate its growing family in faith and offers numerous community programs, including education and senior services. They are a pillar of cross-cultural understanding in one of our area's most vibrant and diverse communities.

Please join me in recognizing the Islamic Center of America as they celebrate 60 years of faith and service.

IN MEMORY OF JOEY SMITH

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness about the death of Joey Smith, a 12-year-old resident of Dearborn Heights, whose young life was tragically cut short when he was struck by a car.

A seventh-grade student at O.W. Best Middle School, Joey was always surrounded by friends and classmates who will dearly miss him. He will be remembered for his bright smile.

I offer my deepest condolences and sympathy to Joey's family and his friends as they mourn his loss.

As a mother myself, my heart especially goes out to Joey's mother, Katie. I pray that she finds the strength and peace during this very difficult time of unimaginable grief. Our community is deeply saddened by this tragedy.

Please join me in honoring the memory of Joey Smith.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the eighth annual National Apprenticeship Week. It is the perfect time to reflect on what is and what isn't working in our Nation's workforce development programs.

There are more than 10 million unfilled jobs in this country and nearly 6 million unemployed individuals. There is clearly a crack in the education-to-workforce pipeline.

The best way to address our country's skills gap and worker shortage is to promote workforce development programs that actually work.

I have been encouraged to see many businesses coming up with their own workforce development programs. Time and again, employer-led programs prove to produce the best results.

More industries are embracing apprenticeships as a solution for upskilling and re-skilling workers. As employers realize that baccalaureate degrees do not always prepare workers to fill needed roles, more alternative pathways will be needed.

Many businesses are already removing unnecessary degree requirements and are, instead, replacing them with apprenticeship programs. This is a great development for our country and our workforce.

Americans should not have to take out mountains of crushing student loan debt to study a subject that has nothing to do with their intended career, only to have to start from scratch once they enter the workforce.

For too long, the college-for-all mentality has pushed young people into obtaining a baccalaureate degree, regardless of their intended career. This mentality is slowly shifting, and our country will be better off for it.

Now that more young people are turning to apprenticeships, it is important to ensure that there are high-quality programs available.

We need apprenticeship programs that prepare workers for the open positions today, not the positions that were open yesterday. We need cutting-edge programs. One-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best models are not the answer.

While President Biden touts his support for apprenticeships, his cancellation of employer-led apprenticeship programs tell a different story. President Biden supports only apprenticeships he can control.

Since terminating employer-led apprenticeship programs, the Biden administration has doubled down on support for the registered apprenticeship model.

Because this system, founded in 1937, has not been substantially updated in eight decades, it is not easily adapted for innovative industries. Using this model to expand and modernize apprenticeships would be like starting on a journey on an already-leaking ship. We can push as hard as we want, but in the end, the vessel can only take us so far before we sink.

It is time for a new system, one with employers in the driver's seat. Job creators know the tools workers need to be successful. Washington swamp dwellers, on the other hand, are clueless.

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Why the Biden administration believes bureaucrats in Washington are more equipped to run apprenticeship programs than those on the ground is beyond me. It is no surprise that the vast majority of successful and thriving apprenticeship programs are led by private industry.

Take Kentucky FAME, for example. The Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education is a partnership of regional manufacturers that creates a pipeline of highly skilled workers through an earn and learn program. By the time participants are done with this program, they will have an associate's degree, an advanced manufacturing technician credential, and years of work experience, all with no student loan debt.

This organization operates in 12 States and has an 85 percent employment placement rate. This is an excellent workforce development model that other industries can learn from.

The more employers embrace apprenticeships, the better off our economy will be. The best way for our workforce to thrive is for the Federal Government to get out of the way and for industry leaders to lead the way.

So, for this National Apprenticeship Week, let's tell the Biden administration to stop putting special interests ahead of workers; let's recommit ourselves to empowering job creators to provide their own solutions; and let's support those jobseekers who want an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time.

PASSING ELECTORAL COUNT ACT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that the 117th Congress and, indeed, this body is on track to surrender its last chance to safeguard American democracy.

It has been 1,045 days since this Capitol, this very building, this very Congress, was attacked on January 6, 2021, in a violent insurrection orchestrated by President Trump in an attempt to stop the transfer of power to the legitimate winner of the 2020 election.

Former President Trump tried to use violence and the flaws of the 1887 Electoral Count Act to overcome his loss in the 2020 election. That was 1,045 days ago.

By contrast, there are less than 20 days during which this Congress can still pass legislation to reform, amend, and clarify the 1887 Electoral Count Act and ensure that events like January 6 never happen again.

We must act. We cannot fail. Former President Trump has set the stage for his supporters to use the flaws in the 1887 law to put aside the electors that reflect the will of the voters in key States and, instead, send forward electors loyal to Trump.

In 135 years since the Electoral Count Act of 1887's enactment, the United States was fortunate to experience continuous, peaceful elections and transfer of power. Former President Trump shattered that cherished norm on January 6.

My colleagues, the fact that we came back into the House Chamber to formally confirm the 2020 electoral college count, despite the violent threats made against our lives, is a source of immense pride not only to us but to America.

We now know that the previous transfers of power took place despite the law and its failings, not because of it.

Tragically, President Trump and his antidemocratic allies' efforts to exploit the loopholes in the Electoral Count Act did not end on that infamous day. Over the last 2 years, unscrupulous MAGA Republican officials have been carrying out a deliberate and coordinated plan to build on the big lie by enacting State laws that allow partisan lawmakers to reject the will of the voters and undermine American democracy.

During the recent 2022 midterm election, 170 of Trump's endorsed election-denying candidates running for Congress and critical State offices have been projected to win their races.

Finally, last night, we watched former President Trump carry out the next step in his plan by formally declaring his candidacy for Presidency in 2024.

The stage is now set for these actors to once again exploit the ambiguities

of the Electoral Count Act as early as 2024.

These dangerous actions have already undercut public trust in our electoral system and their elected officials. If left unaddressed, they could prove catastrophic and bring about an end to America's 245 years of democratic tradition.

Congress must now reform the outdated 1887 law to ensure that no State legislature controlled by any party can subvert a Presidential election by ignoring the will of the voters in that State.

Fortunately, the House recently passed the Presidential Election Reform Act, which would significantly improve the Electoral Count Act. I applaud Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN of the House Administration Committee and Ranking Member LIZ CHENEY, who brought the legislation forward.

Additionally, the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration recently marked up the Electoral Count Reform Act, a competing proposal.

I call upon my colleagues in the key committees to promptly bring forward compromise legislation that we can enact into law.

Democracy is fragile, and it is our responsibility to protect it. Americans have upheld this responsibility for more than two centuries of challenges and adversities. If we fail to seize this opportunity to fix the broken Electoral Count Act, I fear that our democratic system will not get another chance.

Congress has waited 1,045 days, and there are only 20 remaining. Time is running out.

ADDRESSING THE DIESEL SHORTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, every few weeks, we read headlines of another crisis: baby formula; fertilizer; and now another important input, diesel fuel.

This administration not only continues to turn a blind eye but perpetuates harmful policies that worsen these crises.

From day one, President Biden has launched a war on American energy, and now it must end. Through executive actions, the Biden administration paused domestic production of oil while limiting and disincentivizing investments in American energy infrastructure and refining capacity.

On his very first day in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, thus declaring war on our domestic energy production. Seven days later, he paused new oil and gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters. Then, in November 2021, the EPA proposed new source performance methane standards on the oil and natural gas industry, tying the hands of smaller producers.